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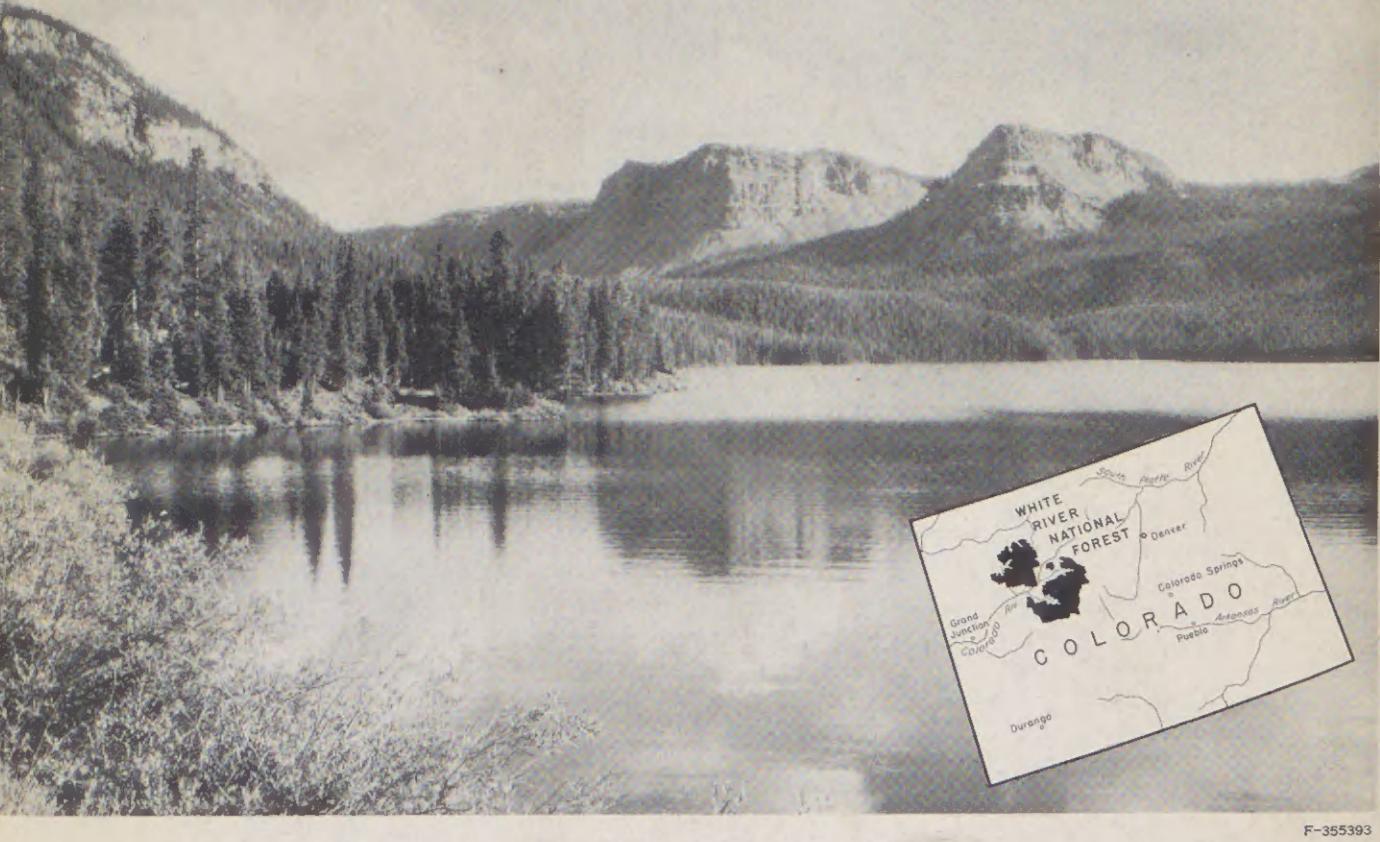
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# White River National Forest



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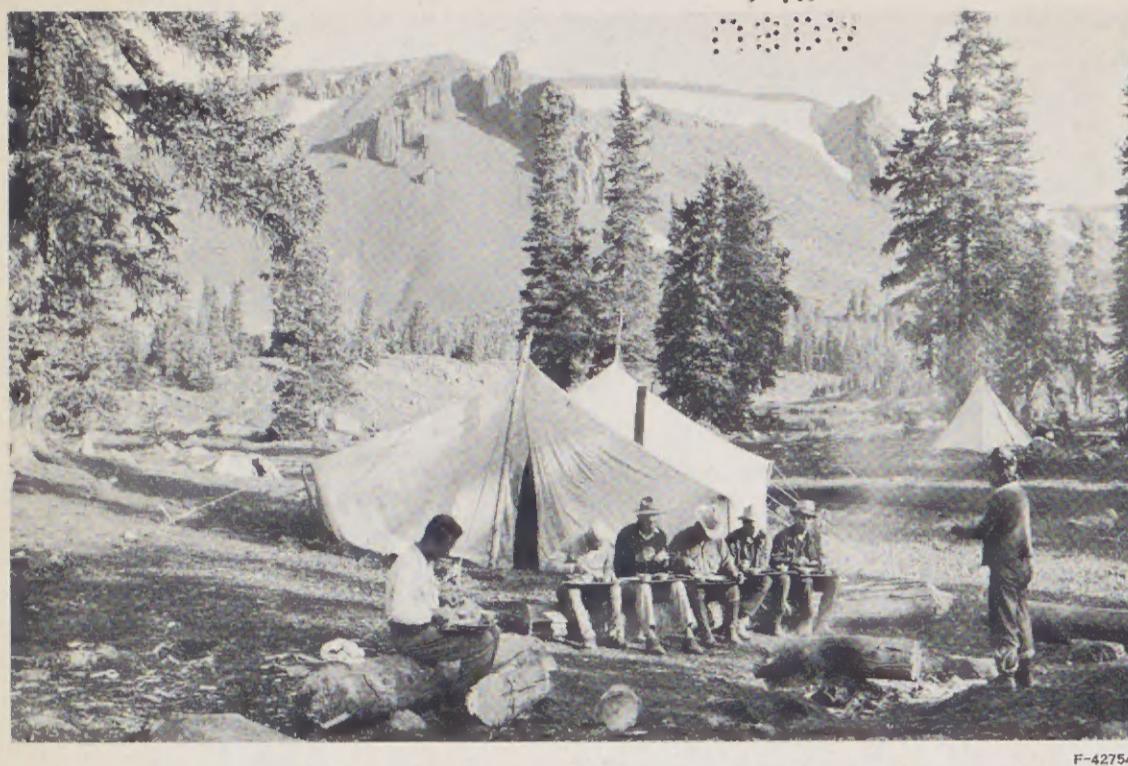


Crystal waters mirror the wooded shore of Trappers Lake.

F-35503



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Rocky Mountain Region



Flat Tops Trail Riders group at breakfast in Island Lake Camp.

F-427546



Virgin forest around Himes Peak.

F-35500



The White River forest yields logs and poles for local use.

F-355416



A forest ranger looks over the high Flat Tops.

Lakes. Wonderful scenery, wild game in its native habitat, and good fishing at beautiful Marvine Lakes, 7 miles distant by trail. Several family units.  
(9) North Fork Frying Pan Camp Ground.—Twenty-three miles up the Frying Pan River from Basalt to the Bigelow Ranch, and 3 miles up the North Fork of the Frying Pan River. Several family units.  
(10) Rocky Fork Camp Ground.—Twelve miles up the Frying Pan River from Basalt. Several family units.  
(11) Gore Creek Camp Ground.—On U S 6 about 12 miles west of the Minturn junction. U S 6 and State 24. Several family units.  
(12) Half Moon Camp Ground.—Leave U S 24 about 4 miles south of Minturn and 2 miles north of Gilman, drive about 6 miles to end of road past Camp Gilman. Nearest point to road by Mount of the Holy Cross. Several family units.  
(13) Homestake Camp Ground.—On U S 24 about 5 miles west of Redcliff. Several family units.  
(14) Tiquion Camp Ground.—State route 14 (14) about 10 miles west of the junction of U S 6 and State 24. Several family units and a shelter house; arrangements for their use can be made with district ranger at Minturn.  
(15) Clark Cabin Picnic Ground.—On the White River Plateau, 26 miles north of New Castle and 20 miles south of Bufoord. Wild game, fine timber, and livestock grazing. Two group units and good spring water.  
(16) Grizzly Creek Picnic Ground.—Five miles east of Glenwood Springs on U S 6 and 24. Outstanding scenery of the Colorado River and Grizzly Creek canyons. Eight family units.  
(17) South Fork Camp Ground.—At the end of the road on the south side of White River, about 12 miles southeast of Bufoord. Interesting cave nearby. Trails for hiking into wilderness. Excellent stream fishing. Several family units.  
(18) Sweetwater Camp Ground.—About 6 miles west of Yampa on county road 17 and 15, or 11 miles southwest of Philippine on county road 15. Restful forest scenery. Two family units.  
(19) Little Oak Creek Camp Ground.—About 13 miles west of the junction of Oak Creek on county road 13. Beautiful scenery and good fishing. Two family units.  
(20) Trout Creek Picnic Ground.—About 12 miles southwest of Oak Creek by county road 25 and State 132, or 12 miles west of Philippine on State 132. Good picnic spots. Facilities for one group.  
(21) Marvine Creek Camp Ground.—About 6 miles up Marvine Creek from the Marvine post office on State 132. Nearest point to road by Marvine.

family camp units and several picnic areas, swimming pool, and grounds for games.

(22) North Fork Frying Pan Camp Ground.—Twenty-eight miles east of Meeker on North Fork of White River Road. About 2 miles below Trappers Lake, within hiking distance of Skinny Fish Lake. Excellent fishing and streams; varied and beautiful scenery. Several family units.

(23) Trappers Lake Camp Ground.—Fifty miles east of Meeker on White River Road, and one-half mile below Trappers Lake, the largest and most beautiful lake on the forest at the edge of the Flat Tops. Wonderful scenery. Easy hiking distance to Little Trappers Lake. Saddled horses may be rented for trips to Lake Frying Pan, Castle Wall, the Devil's Causeway, and other scenic attractions. Good fishing in many nearby lakes; wild game, boating on Trappers Lake. Numerous family units.

(24) Ripple Creek Picnic Ground.—About 41 miles east of Meeker, on State 132 and one-half mile east of the junction of Ripple Creek and State 132. Restful forest scenery. Two family units.

(25) Crisco Lake Camp Ground.—About 15 miles west of Yampa on county road 17 and 15, or 11 miles southwest of Philippine on county road 15. Restful forest scenery. Two family units.

(26) Little Oak Creek Camp Ground.—About 13 miles west of the junction of Oak Creek on county road 13. Restful forest scenery and good fishing. Two family units.

(27) Sweetwater Camp Ground.—Twenty-four miles via county road, northwest of Gypsum on the edge of Sweetwater Lake; or 8 miles up the Colorado River from Dotsero to 10 miles up Sweetwater River to Sweetwater Camp Ground. Restful forest and good fishing. Two family units.

(28) Stilwater Camp Ground.—Twelve miles southwest of Yampa on county road 7. Good fishing, beautiful scenery, livestock grazing, hiking on forest trails to nearby lakes and peaks. Numerous family units.

(29) Lure Creek Camp Ground.—About 10 miles west of Bufoord on State 132. Good stream fishing. Several family units.

(30) Marvine Creek Camp Ground.—About 6 miles up Marvine Creek from the Marvine post office on State 132. Nearest point to road by Marvine.

Several family units.

stocked by the Colorado State Game and Fish Department, with the cooperation of forest rangers, local sportsmen's clubs, and interested individuals. Trap Lake is famous as one of the last strongholds of the mountain lion in Colorado.

The Forest Service objective in wildlife management is to secure the greatest production for the purposes of recreation and sport consistent with timber, forage, water, and other resource uses and values. Generally, the number of game animals in the White River is commensurate with available winter forage. Some species, however, reach a peak breeding stage in the spring, and their numbers increase rapidly in the same period that game animals have been destroyed between the number of big-game animals and the forage available to them. In such cases, the Forest Service cooperates with the State Game and Fish Department in plans for removal of the excess animals through variations in hunting seasons, trapping, and shooting permits. This frequently requires the legalized hunting of female animals, because it is only in this way that the breeding potential can be reduced to a reasonable extent.

Normally, hunters are restricted to taking only deer and elk having antlers, since many of the males can be harvested without reducing the rate of reproduction. However, where serious problems of overpopulation exist, the Forest Service may issue permits for the removal of females or animals without antlers. The removal of surplus animals by a hunter harvest of both sexes is vastly preferable and more humane than removal through starvation and disease, which is nature's method of balancing game populations with available food supplies.

An exceptional scenic feature of the forest is Glenwood Canyon of the Colorado River near Glenwood Springs. On U S 6 and 24, about 10 miles west of Durango, the Western Railroad cuts the river through the narrow walls of the canyon to a length of this case. It is still the finest big-game hunting area in Colorado, and the best hunting in the West.

These areas now included within the White River National Forest was a favorite and bountiful hunting ground for the Ute Indians and the white settlers who followed them. Many famous persons, including Theodore Roosevelt and Zane Grey, have hunted here. It is still the finest big-game hunting area in Colorado, and the best hunting in the West.

Deer are often seen along the roads, and occasionally good photographs may be obtained. The animals are comparatively tame in the early summer, but become more wary as the hunting season approaches. Elk usually range farther away from man-made improvements and habitations, but are often seen by the stockmen and ranchers who come to the forest usually have an excellent opportunity to get game and fish. Those who may be unsuccessful in getting their game, however, will probably profit in other ways—by the cutting and through the beauties of the rugged country. All sportsmen are urged to observe the bag limits, and to cooperate with the State game warden and forest officers to prevent game-law violations.

The forest is justly famed for its fishing. Its many streams and lakes abound with fish, and are kept

town of Greeley, Colo. He is best remembered, however, as the tragic, central figure of an unfortunate Indian uprising that resulted in the Meeker Massacre.

Although he was a man of high ideals, strong religious convictions, and a good leader, he did not understand the Indians, they him. He sought to change them almost overnight from hunters and warriors into a peaceful race of farmers.

When Meeker caused the Ute's race track at the

town to be plowed, the Indians started war

dances that usually preceded an uprising. Meeker, anticipating serious trouble, asked the Government for reinforcements and a supply train to be sent to him. Major Thorburn, the commandant of Fort Steele near Rawlins, Wyo., the soldiers never reached the agency; they were ambushed 25 miles from there on September 29, 1879, by the Utes under leadership of their Chiefs Jack and Colored.

On the first night of the siege, a scout named Joe Rankin made his way through the Indian lines to the fort, riding his mule, and rode 160 miles to Rawlins to warn them. This ride was still an epic in the history of the West. Before the reinforcements arrived, however, Major Thorburn was killed and the town was almost annihilated.

Other Utes, under Chief Douglas, had attacked the agency, killed Meeker and 11 other men, and carried 3 women and a child away as captives. Charles Adams, of Denver, was appointed Agent for the Utes, and he succeeded in getting the Indians to submit to him. He was the last of the tribe. With the help of Ouray, Chief of the Uncompahgre Utes and ranking chief of all Ute tribes, he obtained the release of the prisoners and assisted in quieting the rebellion.

A monument to Meeker and his men, erected by the citizens of Rio Blanco County, may be seen near State Highway 13 about 3 miles southwest of the town of Meeker. The forest may be entered over the New Castle-Basalt Road from New Castle on U S 6 and 24 to Basalt in the upper White River country; from Meeker over State Highway 132; from Hayden or Craig by way of Williams Fork River Road, and by a number of roads leading off State Highway 13 east of the forest.

Following these troubles, the Northern Utes were subdued by the Government and banished to a reservation in Utah, and settlement and development of the White River forest began.

Late in the fall of 1881, two prospectors from Leadville found surface indications of carbonate ore in the vicinity of Deep Lake, about 22 miles north of the present site of Glenwood Springs. They returned early

the next year with friends and staked claims.

From these many claims a small town was built, and the name of the town was chosen by the miners. The town of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, was born.

From these many traveled roads there are a number of old roads leading into less accessible regions.

Hardier travelers who wish to visit the more inaccessible parts of the forest will find suitable trails built and maintained by the Forest Service.

**CONSERVING THE RESOURCES**

The White River National Forest is rich in resources, including forage, water, timber, minerals, and scenic areas.

All these resources are administered under the multiple-use system of land management followed by the Forest Service in the national forests.

Thus, a given area, such as a ranger district, may supply lumber for local industries; forage for domestic livestock and game animals; water for domestic use and irrigation; hunting, fishing, and camping for the visitor; and many other needs.

The use of these resources is correlated and controlled so that no single resource suffers because of use of the others. Outstanding scenic or recreation areas are administered so that their uses will not impair the recreational value. Timber is harvested where cutting does not impair other values; and grazing is allowed except where such grazing would conflict with other forms of use.

All resources of the forest are utilized under the basic concept of sustained yield. That is, the products of the forest are harvested under approved conservation principles for the maximum annual return consistent with the maintenance of the forest.

This means cutting a volume of wood products each year that is less than the total annual growth of the timber stand.

With the exception of timber, the forest cover

is conserved by the Forest Service to the detriment

of the land.

Too rapid run-off and accelerated soil erosion on a

steep slope can be controlled by proper management. Plants and trees improve the soil. Their roots help to bind and stabilize the soil and at the same time make it more porous so that the surface runoff is less and the amount of water absorbed is increased. A forest with many openings, such as those in a scientifically cut-over forest, provides more water than a dense stand, since there is less interception of rain and snow by the trees and less total evaporation loss.

Forage crops, grown on the surrounding valley ranches to provide winter feed for the large herds of stock grazed in the forest during the summer months, are dependent almost entirely on irrigation water that flows from the White River National Forest. The forest is the main source of the following well-known

camp grounds described below are indicated by number and symbol on the map.

In addition to the camp grounds listed, a number of others have been developed principally in the back country away from roads. These more inaccessible camp grounds are in many ways more attractive than are those on roads because they are used by fewer people and offer greater seclusion. Also, fishing is usually better where there is less use.

Seven camp grounds in the forest, authorized under Forest Service permits, and a number of resorts and cabin camps on private land within or near the forest, furnish accommodations for the public. Most of these have horses and pack outfitts to take visitors into the back country.

(1) *Grotto Camp Ground*.—Ten miles southeast of Aspen on the Independence Pass Highway, State 82.

(2) *Last Man Camp Ground*.—Fifteen miles southeast of Aspen on the Independence Pass Highway, State 82.

(3) *Maroon Lake Camp Ground*.—Ten miles up Maroon Creek on a good dirt road from a point 1 mile above Aspen. Numerous family units near a beautiful lake and surrounded by rugged mountain scenery.

(4) *Snowmass Creek Camp Ground*.—About 12 miles upstream from Snowmass Creek from State 82 at a point about 2 miles below Aspen. Several family units.

(5) *Difficult Picnic Ground*.—About 5 miles southeast of Aspen on the Independence Pass Highway, State 82. Group facilities and space for games.

(6) *Avalanche Creek Camp Ground*.—Twelve miles up Crystal River from Carbondale on State 133 and 3 miles up Avalanche Creek on a dirt road. Several family groups.

(7) *Jenney Picnic Ground*.—Twelve miles up Crystal River from Carbondale on State 133 and 1 mile up Avalanche Creek on a dirt road. Group facilities.

(8) *Chapman Recreation Area*.—Twenty-six miles up the Frying Pan River from Basalt. Numerous

camp grounds have water and sanitation facilities, eating places, and camping space. All picnic areas have camp grates and tables, but they may not have water; if water is needed, campers must bring their own.

**RECREATIONAL USE AND VALUES**

The White River forest is unusually free of man-made structures. Its forests shelter deer, elk, and other wildlife, and its many streams and lakes are stocked with native trout, brook trout, and cutthroat trout. Its high altitude, pristine waters appeal to campers and hikers seeking solitude and restful, scenic surroundings.

Miners in the forest have been, for the most part, producers of base metals. From 1880 until the close of 1945 over \$100,000,000 worth of silver and gold has been taken from mines in Pitkin County from 1880 to the close of 1945. About 72 percent of this was silver, 26 percent lead, 6 percent copper, 17 percent, and gold 2 percent (divided between placer and lode).

Mineral resources within national forests are open to location and development exactly as on unreserved public lands. The Forest Service assists the bona fide mining in every way, but also protects public rights in the forest from being acquired by fake or fraudulent claims.

**MINES YIELD RICH ORES**

Mining has been in progress in the southern part of the White River forest since 1879 when the first claims were staked in the vicinity of Redcliff and Aspen. In the next 15 years 100,000,000 feet of timber were harvested. Among them were the Hornbeam, Castle, Old Black, Silver Wave, and others in the Redcliff district, and the Smuggler, Mollie Gibson, Spar, Galena, Aspen, and others, near Aspen. The Empire zinc mine at Gilman, a latter-day development from earlier mines in the Redcliff district, has been a large producer for a quarter of a century.

Compliance with sound principles of range management is required. Better practices of present-day administration include the sound use of areas on which timber is being harvested, and the use of a single cutting method with holding limed on one night on the same area. Thus, a more even utilization of feed is obtained and unnecessary trampling of forage is avoided. Too early use of the range, one of the main causes of overgrazing, is made a matter for careful adjustments. Most stockmen realize that better forage conditions benefit the stock-raising industry, and they cooperate with forest officers in the preservation and upbuilding of the range.

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The Mogollon, said to have yielded the richest vein of silver ever discovered, was located in the forest in 1880. However, the first big strike was made on December 9, 1890. The Smuggler mine, located at Aspen, is credited with the greatest production of ore, and the largest nugget of native silver ever mined was

produced by the Forest Service.

**FORAGE FOR LIVESTOCK**

Livestock raising is the principal industry of northwestern Colorado. Because the White River National Forest provides a large part of the summer range in that area, it is an essential factor in the economic

development of the region.

**WINTER RECREATION**

There are four developed winter sports areas within or adjacent to the forest, and additional developments are expected in the near future.

(30) *Aspen*.—Aspen has the longest chair lift in the world, 14,400 feet with a vertical rise of 3,232 feet. A wide selection of trails is available for downhill skiing. The lift of the lift is at the edge of town and extends to the top of Ajax Mountain where the Smuggler, a very steep climb after the lift, is located. A number of other trails are available for cross-country skiing. Numerous family units are available for winter sports.

(31) *Glenwood Springs*.—Glenwood Springs has a chair lift with a vertical rise of

